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In assembling its best collected works, Asian Art Works presents an the modern artist as someone world-weary and dissatisfied with prosperity.

The exhibition, open through

the end of this month, brings together the works of Chinese, Korean and Japanese artists who see modern comforts as distracting people from more important matters of the spirit and heart.

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Tencent, Lenovo unite to save XP

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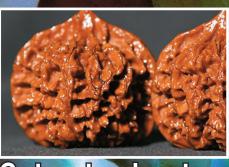


The decisive year for Web video

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Get nuts about walnuts and jade Page 6



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Minister of Agriculture says **GMO** is everywhere

By ZHAO HONGYI

Beijing Today Staff

If there's one agricultural story to come out of the National People's Congress, it's that GMO products are ubiquitous.

When questioned about the prevalence of GMO products being sold for human consumption, Minister of Agriculture Han Changbin said even his family uses GMO sovbean oil when cooking at home.

China may be approaching a tipping point where non-GMO soybeans cease to be grown - even while the planting of GMO soy remains illegal.

Only two GMO products are approved for planting in China: cotton and papaya.

The bulk of China's GMO soy is purchased from the US, the world's largest producer. But while the US uses its GMO soybeans for animal feed, in China they are primarily being sold for human consumption.

The surge in GMO soy imports has crippled farms in northeast China, a region that has long depended on its natural soy produce.

When questioned by reporters, Han said that almost all sovbean oils sold on the market today are made from GMO soy, as are most tofu products.

Even raw bean sprouts may be GMO plants, he said: regulators have completely lost track of what domestic farmers are planting.

The sale of GMO products for human consumption was first reported by Cui Yongyuan, a China Central Television reporter, and Fang Zhouzi, a popular science writer.

Last year, Cui led a dramatic investigation into GMO use in the US to counter



Han Changbing says GMO is already everywhere

CFP Photo

claims that the American public regularly eats GMO products and accepts them as a safe food source.

GMO rice and wheat could similarly come to dominate the market, Han said. China has increased its imports of grain to more than 13 million tons over the last several years.

"At this time, it's still only a small portion of the grain we consume each year," the

But Yuan Longping, the agricultural engineer who won the 2001 National Prize for his robust, hybridized rice, seems to be turning his attention to GMO production.

Last year, a group of scientists and scholars from Tafts University conducted an unapproved experiment in the provinces of Zhejiang and Hunan, that used local children as guinea pigs for their GMO "golden rice."

After being exposed by local media, organizers were heavily punished by the central government.

Han refused to offer specific information about the government's plans for more GMO importing or planting. He only said, "China will assert its right to control its own food supply."

Apelyido/Sumame VEERAYAH Pangalan / Given names MARTIN CONRAD Panggitnang apelyido / Middle name MARCO Araw ng kapanganakan / Date of birth

Many foreigners names are too long for the booking software.

17 Oct 84

Surname/Nom DE MONTIGNY Given names/Prénoms JEAN-PIERRE Nationality/Nationalité

Sample ticket with an invalid name

New booking system keeps foreigners off China's rails

By ZHAO HONGYI

Beijing Today Staff

The new booking system for China's railways was intended to cut down on rampant scalping, but for foreign travelers it's making tickets harder to purchase than ever before.

Railway administrators switched over to the new system on March 1.

But like many Chinese software systems, the space for name entry is limited to 10 Chinese characters or 20 Latin characters.

The name on a train ticket is required to match the name on the passenger's legal identification. In the case of a passport, most foreigners' complete names are longer than 20 characters and contain spaces, which the system does not support.

The booking website is only available in Chinese, and its two-step ID verification process prevents Chinese nationals from assisting friends or business contacts with booking a ticket.

One user, a woman surnamed Xie, complained that she was unable to assist her friends from India with booking a ticket as all three family members had more than 20 characters in their names.

"It was simple to help our friends purchase tickets before they rolled out the new system,," Xie said.

Clerks at the train stations are often unwilling or unable to assist foreigners who attempt to buy their tickets at the station. Those who encounter problems when booking a ticket are asked to file a former complaint and are given no other assistance.

"I really hope the railway system will address these minor problems. The system should be easier to operate," Xie said.

Tencent, Lenovo team up to extend Windows XP's lifespan

By ZHAO HONGYI

Beijing Today Staff

Software developer Tencent and hardware producer Lenovo have pledged to continue providing security support to China's more than 600 million Windows XP computers still in commission.

Microsoft China announced it would cut off its Windows XP support starting from April 1.

Tencent and Lenovo said they would begin issuing support and patches to 200 million of the 600 million Chinese XP users from this month.

"We'll continue the support until users abandon Windows XP," said Liu Jun, vice chairman of Lenovo last Saturday in Beijing.

The companies expect the final XP computers to be phased out within two to three years. The effort is being supported by United Kingsoft and Sougou, a subsid-



Lenovo and Tencent announced their rescue plan for Windows XP on Tuesday. CFP Photo iary of Sohu.com. last 13 years.

'We will ensure the Windows XP computers continue to receive software updates and emergency security patches," said Ren Yuxin, COO of Tencent.

Microsoft introduced Windows XP in 2001 and provided support for the

On December 29, Microsoft announced they would end their support within 100 days. China has more Windows XP users than anywhere in the world.

The vast majority are unlicensed, pirate

2014 to be a turning point for China's online video

The South Korean TV series *My Love from the Stars* has been a dream come true for Chinese merchants. Many have made vast profits by copying the show's popular scenarios and products.

But US and UK TV series may be poised to overtake Korean dramas in popularity. Dozens of shows are copied and uploaded illegally to domestic video sharing sites within hours of airing, and even more are being legally licensed for Web broadcast in China

While foreign shows are popular, they are not large enough cash cows to sustain China's streaming video operators. Fierce competition has many sites exploring original content and set-top boxes in hopes of copying Netflix's success.

By LIU XIAOCHEN

Beijing Today Staff

Big business

Steaming media is big business - especially in China.

According to a survey by *The Economist*, China has more streaming media consumers than any other country. More than 450 million people – 80 percent of China's Internet users – watch shows using streaming media each week.

The consultancy iResearch said it expects this figure to climb to 700 million by 2016.

China's online video industry got a late start. Streaming media first became popular with Google's acquisition of YouTube in 2006. Over the next four years, today's media giants Youku, Tudou and LeTV came online.

The first of China's streaming media sites went public in 2010 and brought the industry's growth to worldwide attention.

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has watched the industry mature through a series of mergers and eliminations. In the last five years, the number of streaming media sites contracted from more than 300 to only 20.

All the sites rely on advertising for their primary revenue. With only 9 billion yuan in total revenue last year, profits are almost non-existent.

But many of the sites are edging closer to profitability.

Last August, the general office of the State Council suggested strengthening the development of Internet media to promote network transmission of "outstanding cultural products."

"These are very favorable policies for the online video industry," said Luo Jianhui, director of the State Press and Publication Administration of Radio Network Audio-visual Program Management Division.

Luo advocated integrating the sites into the stateowned media system and pushing more commercial video sites to merge.

Fight for copyright

Exclusive variety shows were the main focus of online broadcasters in 2013.

The broadcasting rights for popular domestic shows such as *The Voice of China*, *I am a Singer*, *You are the One* and *Where's Dad?* were snatched up by various websites.

As the Internet becomes more integrated into televisions, such cross-media partnerships are expected to continue.

"Content and channels are dependent on each other.



My Love from the Stars

CFP Photos

Everyone wants to find a business model to maximize both interests," said Tian Ming, CEO of Satellite Television Asia, which produced *The Voice of China*.

"Integration of the the Web and TV is the future of the audio-visual Internet," he said.

Although there is much original content on China's video websites, most users limit their viewing habits to foreign TV series or movies.

American, British and South Korean TV series have been entering Chinese new media in recent years. Youku, Iqiyi and Sohu TV have licensed and promoted several American programs.

QQ's video channel licenses content from British TV resources like BBC Worldwide, ITV Studios, Fremantle Media, All3MediaInternational and Endemol.

But the number of US TV series is limited, making the battle for copyrights intense. Six Hollywood studios are already focusing on Chinese online video sites and making Chinese Web deployment a part of their release strategy.

By comparison, domestic video content struggles to win clicks. Many of the shows are shallow imitations of their foreign competitors: others are just poorly made or uncreative.

Derivative products

The soaring price of licenses and the lack of strong original content puts Chinese streaming services in a tough place. Audience loyalty is almost non-existent.

Many operators have taken a great interest *House of*

Cards, an original TV series produced by the American streaming media service Netflix.

Entgroup, a domestic entertainment consultancy, said China's streaming media websites plan to invest in producing 1,500 to 1,700 original series this year – a 45 percent increase from last year.

Those shows will not be cheap.

But streaming media operators benefit from the openness of the online video landscape. They have much more freedom in selecting subject matter, and the series they back could help them to define a niche.

Most sites still prioritize licensing TV series, a choice which offers limited returns. The profit potential of self-made Web series in China remains poorly explored.

Youku has hinted that it may explore overseas distribution of its original shows.

Several video companies are deploying dedicated Internet set-top box products to bring their media to traditional screens. LeTV is producing its own Internet TV product in hopes of charging advertisers more and selling subscriptions to its audience.

But these efforts may not be enough to turn the industry profitable.

The traditional TV industry is serviced by the government. While consumers are accustomed to paying a small fee to be connected, it's unclear how much they are willing to pay for Internet video – even if that subscription fee were to eliminate ads.

Technical support

According to iResearch, 138 million viewers are watching with mobile devices.

The year-on-year growth in mobile viewership was 58.4 percent compared with 1.2 percent on PCs.

Founder and CEO of Satellite Television Asian Region Limited Gu Yongqiang said mobile video consumption is poised to surpass PC viewing.

"China's 4G era is coming, and now is a great opportunity for online video enterprises," said Guo Fanli, the director of China Investment Advisory Industry Research Center." The growing population of smart phone users and 4G network speeds will open up a whole new market for consuming streaming video content on mobile terminals," he said.

Peng Bo, deputy director of the State Internet Information Office, said China expects to have total 4G coverage in all major cities by July.

"By that time, watching HD videos will no longer be a problem for most users."





Artists shred the empored of modern prosperity

By ZHAO HONGYI

Beijing Today Staff

Judging by the latest collection at Asian Art Works, the life of the modern artist is worldweary and pessimistic.

The new exhibition, titled Collections of Asian Art Works, reflects the personal attitudes of the gallery's collected artists. Those attitudes may be a symptom of China's general outlook on prosperity.

Aya Kakeda's "Search for New World" paints society as a pool of small cats swimming in an endless ocean to reach an imaginary shore.

In "Lover," Ding Xiaoqing tells us how isolated from the world we become when we fall in love.

Guo Lina's "Yoga Retreat Barbell" is a bitter commentary on the modern woman's obsession with personal image.

The modern world offers no shortage of creature comforts, but these artists say they are all distractions from matters of the heart.

Korean artist Koh Sangwoo uses negative photos in her "Lady in Amazon" to render her model's attractive figures and faces as something horrible and unclear. The theme continues in her series "Flower Talk."

A hard paper Bodhisattva is the contribution of artist Hoyoon Shin. The flat image is symbolic of how from the right angle everything can look beautiful and solid but when viewed from another angle it will vanish.

Aside from its criticism of materialism, the exhibition offers basic truths about daily life.

Aiyung Yun's "Unknown Space" creates a field of twinkling stars as a reminder that space is a place rather than the pure emptiness. In "Package," Sun Wenyi displays a wonderful, colorful box with nothing inside.

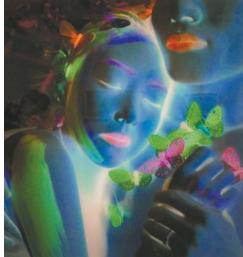
Asian Art Works is jointly organized by Chinese and Korean artists. Most exhi-

bitions focus on the conflict between worldly and spiritual issues.

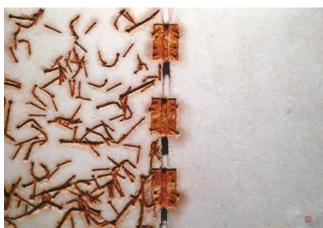


Tel: 5762 6338 Web: asianartworks.net Email: info@asianartworks.net

When: Through March 31



Flowers Talk, Kho Sangwoo, photography



Men and Women, Jemma Har



Search for New World, Aya Kakeda, hand printed five-color silkscreen



Lovers, Xiaoqing Ding, ballpoint pen on paper



Woman Stricken by Rose, Koh Sangwoo, photography

otiness



Out Performance Options ATM Partition. Harn van den Dorpel



Art for an Exhibition poster Internet world

By ZHAO HONGYI

Beijing Today Staff

The 20th century's modernism was largely defined by the relationship between traditional crafts and emerging manufacturing and mass media technologies.

In today's culture, the most pressing condition shaping creation is the omnipresent Internet.

A new exhibition at Ullens Center for Contemporary art, curated by Karen Archery and Robin Peckham, is exploring the character of new art whose concepts, ideas, dissemination and reception are defined by a post-Internet world.

Titled "Art Post-Internet," the collection includes works by artists based in New York, London and Berlin.

"Share Health" is a group of soap dispensers on a wall, made by Jose Kline. The work is symbolic of the segmented nature of modern life.

Another photo series, "Nine Eyes of Google Street View," shows a collection of photos from Google's Street View project that reflects how the stories happening around us every minute are recorded today.

Other pieces, such as a collection of billboards on ATMs and an abstract series of images taken on a table, are interpreted as a commentary about how modern life is being sliced up into picture or video moments rather than being taken as a whole as it was in the past.

The character of the Internet era is a severely decreased expectation of privacy and a crashing down of traditional interpersonal barriers.

The exhibition includes two pre-recorded lectures: "Thinking Post-Internet," by Karen Archery and Robin Peckham, and another on the history of UCCA.

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art

Where: 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District When: Through May 11

Tel: 5780 0202 / 0203 Web: creative-studio.cn



CAD Proposal for Sony Corporation, Dara Birnbam



Photos by Zhao Hongyi



Ancient collectables make a comeback

Heart walnuts





Lion's head walnuts

By DIAO DIAO Beijing Today Intern

As foreign luxuries become more affordable, many Chinese shoppers are turning back to traditional baubles and amusements.

Natural stones and precious shells are becoming harder and harder to acquire, increasing their collectable value and making them a stronger symbol of prestige than the latest luxury handbag. Many are traded online or at traditional street markets.



Officer's hat walnuts

Hetian jade bracelets

CFP Photos

Collectable walnuts

Collectable walnuts are one of the few traditional luxuries that appeal to both sexes.

Unlike their edible peers, collectable walnuts have deeply veined, hard shells that produce a clear sound when clacked or squeezed. Possession of a fine pair is considered a symbol of status, as the nuts were a favorite amusement of Qing dynasty nobles.

The most prized walnuts come from wild trees in northern China and are said to resemble lion's heads (*shizitou*), hearts (*jixin*) or officer hats (*guanmao*).

Lion's head nuts are the most common in the market. The shells look like a lion's face, with wide, drooping edges, a sharp but blunt top and a tight, square bottom. An average pair commonly costs between 500 and 2,000 yuan: a perfect pair can cost much, much more.

Heart-shaped walnuts are native to Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area. They have rough veins and are much harder than other kinds of collectable walnuts. They typically cost less than lion's head pairs, starting from 200 hundred yuan and growing more expensive with their size.

Officer's hat walnuts have a big and thin edge. They are wider than they are high when viewed from the front and tend to have an irregular surface and veins.

The number of wild trees producing these nuts has declined in recent years, driving up the price. A perfect pair can cost 10,000 yuan.

Collectable walnuts are said to have a medicinal value. The bumpy edges and irregular shape make them a tool for massaging acupoints in the palms. Squeezing and rolling a pair of walnuts is believed to retard aging and prevent heart disease.

Beijing has many markets that deal in rare walnuts, but experience is essential if you want to avoid being cheated.

A collector surnamed Zhang said each pair of walnuts has to be judged on its hardness, size, shape and color. A single, well-shaped walnut with a deep orange hue is not valuable unless it has a match. The closer the match, the more valuable the pair, he said.

Baoguosi Market

Where: 1 Baoguosi, Guang'anmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District When: 9 am-4 pm Tel: 6301 4827

High-end jade accessories

Jade has a longer history of value than any other stone or mineral.

Humans first started collecting jade during the Stone Age, even before they developed a fascination with gold and silver.

The art of carving reached its zenith during the Qing Dynasty, when jade articles were fashioned to furnish and decorate rooms.

As large stones became harder to find, people began to focus on smaller jade pieces such as hair clasps and accessories. Today, the most popular pieces are cut for use as pendants or bracelets.

Jade is typically classified by its hardness rather than its color. The famous Hetian jade is representative of the soft group while Feicui is the best known hard jade.

Hetian jade comes from Hetian, Xinjiang, and is found in the colors of white, cyan, black and yellow.

The most common Hetian jade is white, and it is prized for its moist and pure color, smooth touch and creamy appearance. Some white Hetian jade can be transparent, but that is not considered a marker of quality.

A good piece of Hetian jade should

be of high purity, moist and white. Quality is determined by viewing the stone through a light. A good piece should possess a fine grain and be free of black or white inclusions.

With the amount of natural Hetian jade rapidly decreasing, a single small white bracelet costs at least 1,000 yuan. Other small pieces can cost hundreds yuan or more according to the size.

Feucui jade is primarily found in Myanmar. The name comes from a mythical bird said to have blue, red, green and brown feathers. Today the term is better associated with colorful jades.

The most popular color of Feicui is green and it is divided into ice and water categories. Ice Feicui is transparent while water Feicui is green and opaque.

Feicui jade is usually carved into rings, bracelets or pendants. It costs more than Hetian jade, with high-quality water Feicui bracelets starting from 10,000 yuan.

Yangrou Hutong Jewelry Center

Where: 88 Fuchengmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 10 am–5 pm **Tel:** 6616 8405 March 14, 2014 SHOPPING



Whitening Sun Block, 88 yuan

Save your skin from the city's air

By DIAO DIAO

Beijing Today Intern



Luffa Toner, 22 yuan



Gongdeng Almond Lotion, 12 yuan



Biaoting Vitamin E Lotion, 6.8 yuan

Think your skin doesn't need protection? If you're living in Beijing you could not be more wrong.

While most Beijingers don masks to keep the city's heavy pollution out of their lungs, many forget about its damaging effects on their skin. Professor Pan Xiaochuan at the Public Health Department of Peking University says exposed skin is in even more need of protection.

Ambient pollution accelerates skin aging and dryness and long exposure can cause an oil secretion imbalance that disrupts metabolic cycles. That translates into blackheads, enlarged pores and keratin accumulation.

Selecting the right skin care product for your skin type is not easy, and all it takes is one poor choice to cause an allergic reaction or rash. Balancing the best results for the price can be difficult, but *Beijing Today* suggests considering these commonly available creams.

Whitening Sun Block

This domestic cream is made with Chinese herbs that effectively protect skin from UV damage and keep dust and bacteria away. The mild emulsion is also easy to remove.

Luffa Toner

This natural product is made of plant essence and is an effective moisturizer with rich vitamins and minerals. It improves rough skin and keeps it soft and smooth, especially after long exposure to the sun. Apply it to your face on top of a base lotion before going out.

Gongdeng Almond Lotion

Shanghai's popular Gongdeng Almond Lotion has a long history. The vitamin-rich cream contains plant extracts and is fresh and non-greasy. Unlike many hypoallergenic creams, it smells nice and is easily absorbed. Long-term use can improve skin elasticity. The cream doubles as body lotion.

Biaoting Vitamin E Lotion

Biaoting Vitamin E is produced by Beijing Hospital. As moisturizers go, it is a high-quality cream that's free of irritating additives. You can use it as a hand and foot cream as well as a body lotion. Apply it liberally after a bath in the winter to treat and prevent dry skin.

Aloe Soothing Gel

Soothing Gel has been compared to the fountain of youth. It contains 12 vitamins, 20 minerals and 18 amino acids that moisturize, repair wounds and reduce inflammation. The natural aloe essence soothes the skin, blocks out bacteria and repairs sun damage.

Green Piggy Collagen Mask

Koreans are known for their radiant skin and this sleeping mask is one of their secrets. Its moisturizers and rich collagen content make your skin shiny, bright and elastic. The mask helps to shrink pores and absorbs deep into the skin to repair damage. Apply it to your face for 15-20 minutes and remove it to feel your skin glow immediately.

Washable Skin Food Brown Sugar Mask

This black sugar mask by Skin Food is also from Korea. It contains special nutrients for the skin, such as fresh plants and fruit extracts. The enriched Brazilian sugar gives the skin a healthy glow. The mask washes off easily and helps to clean and activate the skin.

Shiseido Cleanser

Japan's Shiseido is well known for its skin care products. This powerful cleanser can even remove simple makeup. It only takes a few drops to work up a thick foam. Milk and other nutritive elements in help to protect and cleanse the skin.

Photo from Baidu.com



Aloe Soothing Gel, 39 yuan



Green Piggy Collagen Mask, 80 yuan



Washable Skin Food Brown Sugar Mask, 88 yuan



Shiseido Cleanser, 45 yuan

Beijing's best organic Italian

While noodles may have originated in China, Italy's spaghetti differs significantly from any popular Chinese noodle. Adapted from the dried noodles of Arab traders, spaghetti and other pasta products have been a popular Italian food since the 13th century.

Made of very hard durum wheat, basic spaghetti is boiled and tossed with a sauce of meat, tomato, parmesan cheese and fresh basil. Other ingredients can be added according to personal preference.

Most expats are familiar with the popular chain Annie's, but Beijing has many other Italian restaurants focused on creative dishes and organic ingredients.

Louis' offers affordable Italian home cooking



By DIAO DIAO *Beijing Today Intern*

Authentic Italian spaghetti and organically farmed ingredients have helped Louis' Restaurant build a loyal following.

Operated by an Italian man Louis Bissi and his wife Stefano Bissi, the small restaurant has 20 tables and serves more than 20 kinds of spaghetti and other snacks. Dishes are flavored with a special vanilla grown on the restaurant's farm. Its olive oil and durum wheat noodles are imported from Italy, as are its cereals, cheeses and tomatoes.

Tables are never empty at lunch, and Louis' draws a mixed Chinese and expat crowd.

Price and portions are fairly reasonable. A dish of bacon spaghetti costs 20 yuan; mushroom and beef spaghetti costs 28 yuan. Side orders, such as roast chicken or cheese potatoes, cost 16 yuan each.

For diners who want something other than spaghetti, Louis' offers baked risotto, soup and pizza.



Dishes arrive quickly, but there are plenty of interesting things in the restaurant to occupy your mind while you wait. Branches of wintersweet draped in dried noodles decorate each table. There are also glasses packed with unusual spaghetti shapes, like tennis rackets and bowtie noodles.

Louis' Restaurant

Where: F8, Chaoyang Joy City, 101 Chaoyang Bei Lu, Chaoyang District When: Daily, 10 am-10 pm
Tel: 8552 4839





Agrilandia organic farm is Shunyi's 'Little Tuscany'







Photo by Agrilandia Italian Farm/sina.com

Agrilandia Italian Farm brings Tuscan architecture and a breath of the Italian countryside style to Beijing. The farm plants more than 60 varieties of fruits and vegetables to provide guests with organic food all year round.

The restaurant caters to the safe dining crowd. Each dish is made using locally grown fruits and vegetables, homemade spices and organic imports to ensure everything is flavorful and chemical free.

The theme restaurant and farm also provide a fireplace restaurant divided into two sections for buffets and banquets. Each is decorated in rural Italian style. A spacious attached kitchen gives guests a chance to make their own pizza in the sun while enjoying the farm's own wine.

Agrilandia is open for holiday stays. Its guest rooms are each two floors with a fancy wood, stone interior and fireplace. Doors open to a shared lawn, where you can play with your pets. Agrilandia is animal-friendly.

Agrilandia Italian Farm

Where: Baige Zhuang, Mapo Town, Shunyi District **Tel:** 6940 7780 / 7801, 8148 9156